

Reflection for Harvest

John 6:27 “Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures”

Luke 10:2 “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

What links those passages? Well! We know that God’s creation is good, it is what humanity has done to it, in parts, that means it has turned out less than good.

We, the Church, are encouraged to be harvesters of souls. Jesus is still looking for people who will work for him, and bring people into his Kingdom: that is our calling.

It won’t always be easy, in fact it will be hard. It is the cost of discipleship, and sometimes we don’t want to pay the cost.

Perhaps we think we are not good enough to be workers in the harvest, but Jesus knows that we are.

If we could each encourage just one soul into the harvest, the maths is simple!

Fr Terry



NEXT SUNDAY 19.10.25 18th after Trinity
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Genesis 32.22-31
NT 2 Timothy 3.14-4.5
GOSPEL Luke 18.1-8



CONTACT US

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St Thomas, Exeter

12th October 2025

Harvest Thanksgiving

10.30am in the Church

Followed by a bring & share lunch in the hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

101 Come, ye thankful people, come

138 For the fruits of his creation

137 For the beauty of the earth

534 We plough the fields and scatter

Tuesday 14th October

7.30pm House Group at Helen's house

Wednesday 15th October

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 16th October

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny
Tuckett's house

Friday 17th October

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Moses said to all Israel: When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the

bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Philippians 4.4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

John 6.25-35

When the crowd found Jesus on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God

is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Post Communion

Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notices

We are very pleased that **Revd Sarah Mounoury** starts her 6-month appointment with us this Monday (13th); though since she will be taking her day off on Mondays, her first day in the parish will be Tuesday 14th. Please pray for her as she prepares to lead us, and then come along next Sunday (and following weeks, too!) to meet and welcome her.

On Tuesday 14th October we will be hosting a Harvest service for St Gabriel's Primary School. Please pray for the children coming, that they will learn about God's wonderful provision for us all.

On Friday 17th October at 6.30pm in St Thomas Methodist Church, Soul of the City Gospel Choir will be giving a concert in aid of Age UK.

On **Sunday 26th October** our church, hall, and churchyard will be hosting a **multi-cultural All Souls Festival** (events in the church itself, talks and a choir, will follow our usual Sunday service). Please support this vibrant event taking place on our doorstep! Volunteers are needed, see Liz for more info.

Our own **All Saints and All Souls services** will be held on **2nd November**; All Saints at our 10:30am Sung Eucharist, and All Souls at 4pm. As usual we will be reading the names of the departed at the All Souls service; if there is a *new* name you would like added to the list this year please speak to the churchwardens or Jenny Thomas.